

consistently attracted more highly qualified applicants, with the SATs and GPAs of its applicants increasing every year. Under Dr. Tyson's presidency, Mary Baldwin's endowment has increased threefold, with a record-setting \$58 million raised in its most recent capital campaign. All told, Mary Baldwin College, thanks to Dr. Tyson, is the largest and fastest growing women's college in Virginia.

In addition to her work at Mary Baldwin College, Dr. Tyson served as president of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and was an active member in professional organizations, including the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges, and the State of Virginia Rhodes Scholarship Competition Selection Committee. She is also active in the Staunton community through the Frontier Culture Museum, Shenandoah Shakespeare, and Rotary International.

Dr. Tyson has left an indelible mark not only on the institution that she served so well as president but also on the hearts and minds of her colleagues, students, and community as a friend and inspiration. I congratulate her and wish her well in her retirement.●

#### THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I speak today in honor of the Small Business Administration, which this year is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its service to America's small businesses.

This week marks the SBA's annual Small Business Week. Throughout the events of this week, the SBA will demonstrate many of the valuable programs that have been created to help entrepreneurs across the country achieve success over the past 50 years. The SBA is relied upon to help restore economically depressed communities, spur technological research and development, provide access to capital and business training, monitor the procurement practices of Federal agencies, and ensure small businesses are heard within the Federal Government.

With the assistance of the programs and resources of the Small Business Administration and its dedicated employees, thousands of small businesses across the country have developed and expanded. Some of those companies have since developed into household names after receiving help from the SBA; companies like Outback Steakhouse, Nike, and Staples. These businesses exemplify the entrepreneurial spirit that is so unique to this country.

The importance of the small business community cannot and should not be underestimated. The link between small businesses and a strong economy is clear: small businesses account for over 50 percent of nonfarm GDP, and account for 75 percent of all new jobs. Time and again, our small businesses

have led this Nation out of bad economic times.

We cannot help this country's economy by ignoring our small businesses and underfunding the initiatives meant to foster their establishment and growth. President Bush seems to understand that there is a need to support small businesses, but during his 3 years in office, he has yet to translate that understanding into actions. In his first year, he cut the SBA's budget by almost 50 percent. In his second year, he eliminated all funding for the agency's largest small-business loan program and shifted the cost—more than a hundred million—to the small businesses and the SBA's lending partners in the private sector who make the loans possible—never mind that the government was already overcharging them. He has cut funding for microloans and counseling—the SBA's number one program for reaching African Americans, Hispanics and women.

Here in the Senate, we are trying to pass legislation reauthorizing the programs of the Small Business Administration for another 3 years, and I think Chair SNOWE and the other members of the committee for working with me to create a bill that enables small businesses to continue to prosper. We are doing our part to assist small businesses, and the next step is to ensure that the SBA and its programs receive the funding they need to actively help small businesses across the country in these difficult economic times. The administration's low-ball request for FY 2004 will not help about adequate funding of the critical assistance that America's small businesses need. I intend to do everything possible to obtain necessary funding for these critical small business programs to ensure they will thrive in the next year and for the 50 years to come.●

#### RECOGNIZING WILLIAM G. O'BRIEN

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, today I recognize William O'Brien, county administrator for Rockingham County, VA, who is retiring December 31, 2003, after 26 years of dedicated service.

William O'Brien began his career in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he spent 4 years before receiving his bachelor's degree from Mansfield University in 1969. He later earned an MBA from Southeastern University in 1978 before taking his current position in Rockingham County. As county administrator, Mr. O'Brien spent 26 years dutifully serving the residents of Rockingham County. Prior to his work in Rockingham, he also served as county administrator for Warren County, VA from 1973 to 1977. In addition, Mr. O'Brien spent more than 10 years as a professor at James Madison University and Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, VA.

I congratulate Mr. O'Brien on his years of dedicated service to the people of Rockingham County and the Commonwealth of Virginia, and I wish him well in his retirement.●

#### RECOGNIZING LUTHER E. "IKEY" MILLER

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, today I recognize Mr. Luther E. "Ikey" Miller, who passed away on March 17, 2003 in Rileyville, VA.

Born on January 27, 1932, Mr. Miller was involved in a wide array of activities in his lifetime, including law, business, politics, the military, sports, music, and agriculture. Throughout his life, he was influential in his community. In 1973, he was appointed to serve as Page County Circuit Court clerk, a post that he held for 26 years, becoming an integral part of the local judiciary. Mr. Miller also served as chairman of the Page County Republican Party for 16 years, and as a Presidential elector for Virginia in the 2000 Presidential election. A Virginia native, he graduated from Luray High School in 1949. Mr. Miller entered the U.S. Army in 1952, serving until 1954, and achieving the rank of corporal before his honorable discharge. He also worked 21 years for First National Bank as a cashier and loan officer. Mr. Miller loved sports, especially baseball, which he played in the minor leagues, as well as football and hunting. He also farmed full-time throughout his life with the help of his family, and played in a country music band for 20 years.

Mr. Miller will surely be missed by his wife of 47 years Shirley, his family, friends, and the community he served so faithfully during his life. I join with the Miller family in mourning the loss of such a great family man, public servant, and Virginian.●

#### HONORING THE ANN ARBOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator STABENOW and myself, I congratulate the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra as it celebrates its 75th anniversary. The Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra was founded by Phillip Potts on a chilly autumn evening in 1928. Potts and four musicians gathered in a basement room of a local church, set up their music stands, unpacked and tuned their instruments, and launched into what would become a musical legacy that has touched many in the Michigan community.

Today, the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra includes over 150 professional musicians who perform under its auspices. The organization has an active and committed 45-member Board of Directors and a staff of five full-time employees. Each season, the symphony performs nine main stage concerts for 8,000 subscription patrons as well as five matinee concerts for over 1,000 senior citizens and five family-oriented concerts designed to engage family members of all ages. The group's extensive educational series includes four youth concerts, "Ensembles in the Classroom" during which orchestra members visit individual classrooms,